

Serial Number: 09/587,111

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Group Art Unit: 1646

32. **(Amended)** The method of any one of claims 27 or 29, wherein binding of the test compound to the polypeptide is detected by the use of an assay for a hVR-2 activity.

35. **(Amended)** The method of any one of claims 27 or 29, wherein said cell expressing said polypeptide is a neuronal cell.

36. **(Amended)** The method of any one of claims 27 or 29, wherein said compound modulates the activity of said polypeptide.

43. **(Amended)** The method of any one of claims 37, 39, 46 or 48, wherein binding of said test compound to said polypeptide is detected by the use of a direct binding assay.

44. **(Amended)** The method of any one of claims 37, 39, 46 or 48, wherein binding of said test compound to said polypeptide is detected by the use of a competition binding assay.

45. **(Amended)** The method of any one of claims 37, 39, 46 or 48, wherein said test compound modulates the activity of said polypeptide.

46. **(Amended)** A method for identifying a compound which binds to a polypeptide that is at least 95% identical to the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:5 and is capable of modulating membrane excitability in a cell, the method comprising:

- a) contacting a cell expressing the polypeptide with a test compound under conditions suitable for binding; and
- b) determining whether the test compound binds to the polypeptide, thereby identifying a compound which binds to a polypeptide comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:5.

48. **(Amended)** A method for identifying a compound which binds to a polypeptide that is at least 95% identical to the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:5 and is capable of modulating membrane excitability in a cell, the method comprising:

- a) contacting the polypeptide with a test compound under conditions suitable for binding; and